

After re-reading my essential beliefs statement I can honestly say not much has changed this lack of change in mindset I feel is best described through my fears. I went into this course with fears that my organization skills would not be up to par which is likely still the case. I also feared that I would not be able to help students who didn't learn like me and I'm certainly still afraid of that. Finally I feared that I would become a lousy teacher that lost his sense of idealism and that is still my greatest fear. The difference comes in how prepared I feel to tackle my fears and begin to eradicate them. I feel that I have taken strides towards preparing myself to conquer these fears in the workplace and that is where practicum has truly helped me the most. I expected to struggle with the workload and I have absolutely no doubt that I did struggle but it certainly did serve to make me a better teacher.

#### Syllabus Questions

1. We use backwards design when planning lessons to make sure that we have a plan to get students where we want them to end up. If we just planned as we went along it could lend itself to students only reaching an arbitrary point in the unit and subsequently not coming away with all of the knowledge we would like them to come away with.
2. We vary instruction so that we reach the maximum amount of students possible. Students all learn in different ways, they may struggle in some areas and excel in others, so it is our job to hit on as many of the learning styles as we can to become teachers who maximize their students' potential.
3. We can learn a lot about whether students are actually learning the material that we want them to through varied types of assessment and checks for understanding. This is another area where varying methods is crucial as to make sure students of all different learning styles can show how they're learning rather than some students who may understand the material lacking the capability to show it through a singular type of assessment.

I feel it's difficult for me to assess myself in terms of a letter grade especially considering we have read about how sometimes they aren't the best indicator of learning. I personally feel that I made strides in this class in terms of organization and becoming more task oriented and for that I feel I at least deserve to pass. This will end up being maybe the only class I have ever completed every assignment for and I'm proud to say that I've worked extremely hard to accomplish that and I certainly have you to thank for pushing me. With that being said it is clear to both of us that I likely still have a great deal of room to grow in the areas that you as an instructor excel in. If I'm being completely honest I feel that my pedagogy and content knowledge are in the upper tier of our class, but my organization and ability to stay on task would likely be in conversation for the worst in our class. While measuring myself against my peers isn't a productive way to go about assessing myself it certainly serves as a measuring

stick and I hope to continue to improve. I think that I'm much closer to becoming an actual teacher after taking this class and that at the very least should be worth something.